(a) whether his Ministry has received a request from Andhra Pradesh Government for Central financial assistance of Rs.46.20 crores to State's Community Health Insurance Scheme, "Rajiv Aarogyasri" which has been launched in the backward district of Mahboobnagar, Ananthapur and Srikakulam in April, 2007;

(b) if so, the response of his Ministry thereto;

(c) the reasons for delay in sanctioning the assistance; and

(d) by when it is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has launched the "Rajiv Aarogyasri Community Health Insurance Scheme" to provide health coverage to the families living below poverty line, on a pilot basis in Mahboobnagar, Anantapur and Srikakulam districts on 01.04.2007.

The State Government has requested for a financial assistance of Rs.46.20 Crores under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), for the pilot project.

Proposal of the State Government has been considered and an amount of Rs.10 Crores has been agreed for the year 2007-08 to the State Government for implementation of the Scheme.

Rise in malaria cases

1336.SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Malaria infection caused by Plasmodium Falciparum has gone up from 38 per cent in 1996 to 50 per cent in 2006;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 548 million people live in the country in high malaria risk areas;

(c) if so, whether it is also a fact that Long-Lasting Insecticidal Bed Nets are considered as one of the most vital interventions for protecting people from malaria;

(d) if so, whether it is also a fact that, due to policy hurdles, his Ministry is not able to procure the above nets; and

(e) if so, how his Ministry is planning to address the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No Sir, 95% of the country's population is living in Malaria endemic areas, out of which 300 million population of the country live in high malaria risk areas.

(c) to (e) The Long Lasting Insecticidal Bed Net (LLIN) is one of the effective interventions for control of malaria but due to non availability of firms registered with Central Insecticide Board (CIB) under the administrative control of Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperation for the sale of LLINs, Programme could not procure them. However, it is learnt from CIB that 3 firms are going to be registered with them very soon, and programme intends to procure LLIN in this financial year.